

forming on the layer of second material a transducer basecoat portion containing a plurality of transducers, wherein at least one transducer resides on each of the slider bodies; and
defining an air bearing surface on each slider body, the air bearing surface comprising a leading portion of the first material and a trailing portion of the second material.

10. The method of claim 9, where a lapping durability of the first material is greater than a lapping durability of the second material.
11. The method of claim 9 further comprising severing the composite wafer into a plurality of bars.
12. The method of claim 11 further comprising severing a bar into a plurality of individual sliders.
13. The method of claim 9 wherein a thickness of the first material is as much as about 15 times the thickness of the second material.
14. The method of claim 9 wherein a thickness of the first material is as little as about half the thickness of the second material.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted for entry in the above-identified application prior to an Examiner undertaking a first Action in connection therewith.

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Application No.:

-4-

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0982.

Respectfully submitted,

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**APPENDIX:
MARKED UP VERSION OF SPECIFICATION AND CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

9. A method of manufacturing a slider body which supports a transducer so that the transducer is at a closest position with respect to a disc during flight, the method comprising the steps of:
- [attaching a layer comprising a second material to a wafer comprising a first material, thereby] forming a composite wafer comprising a layer of a first material and a layer of a second material, the composite wafer comprising a plurality of [sliders] joined slider bodies;
- forming on the layer of second material a transducer basecoat portion containing a plurality of transducers, wherein at least one transducer resides on each of the slider bodies; and
- [forming] defining an air bearing surface on [a] each slider body, the air bearing surface comprising a leading portion of the first material and a trailing portion of the second material.

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